

**Government of India**  
Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi: 1100 03,

**Dated: April, 2024**

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Sub: Clarification sought by the Regional Office, Chandigarh in respect of proposals which have been granted 'in-principle' approval by the State Government under the erstwhile regimes of General Approval – reg.**

The undersigned is directed to refer to the letter no. 102/Misc/2019-RoC dated 2.04.2024 on the above subject wherein the Regional Office has sought a clarification from the Ministry indicating the enabling provisions under extant FC Rules/Guidelines under which these and such other proposals being received from State Government; shall be accorded Stage-II approval by the Regional Office. In this connection, the following is clarified:

- i. Provisions of General Approval have been discontinued by the Central Government w.e.f. 29.12.2023 and the proposals already granted 'in-principle' approval under the erstwhile regimes of General Approval are to be processed and approved as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Savardhan) Rules, 2023.
- ii. Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 details the process for grant of final approval. It is inter-alia provided in the said rule that after receipt of the compliance report final approval will be granted by the Central Government.
- iii. Further, to address the situation of proposals where 'in-principle' approval has already been granted, the rule 16(8), provides that proposal which have already been granted 'in-principle' approval shall be dealt under the provisions of the extant rules and be processed and considered for grant of 'Final' approval without amending the conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval.

In view of the above, the undersigned is directed to request the Regional Office to ensure compliance of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, as indicated above.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

**Encl: As above.**

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'D'

**To**

The Dy Director General of Forests (Central),  
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh